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# Changing the HEM in a DRESS or SKIRT



Division of Home Economics  
Federal Extension Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

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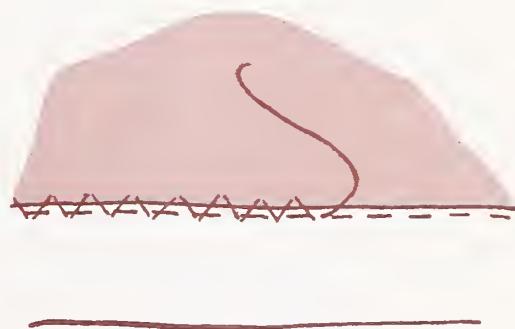
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Prepared by a committee headed by Alice Linn, Clothing Specialist, Division of Home Economics, Federal Extension Service, and Mrs. Eileen E. Gibson, Extension Textiles and Clothing Specialist, University of Missouri.

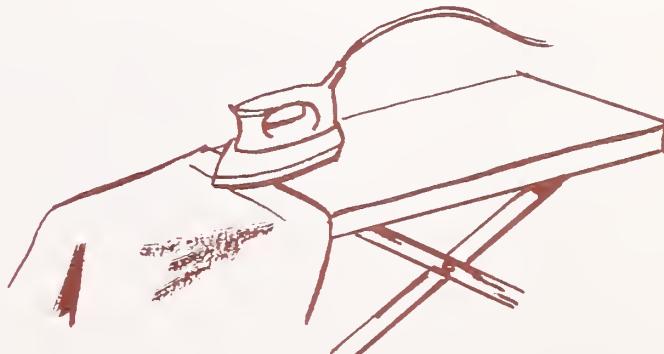
## CHANGING THE HEM IN A DRESS OR SKIRT

Do not try to lengthen durable press dresses or skirts because old creases will show. Look at the dress or skirt to see if there is a durable press label sewn inside the neck or waistband. Some of these labels are: Koratron, Dan-Press, Penn-Prest, Burmi-Press and Perma-Prest. These trade names are used only to help you know what to look for. Many other companies also make and sell durable press clothes. The U.S. Department of Agriculture does not recommend one kind more than another.

1. Pull out the sewing thread in the old hem.



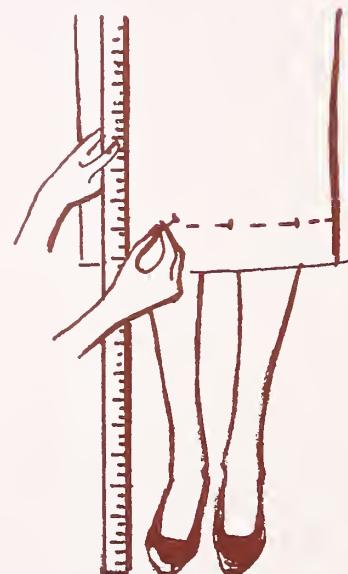
2. Press the wrinkles out of the dress. Be sure to press out the old hem crease.



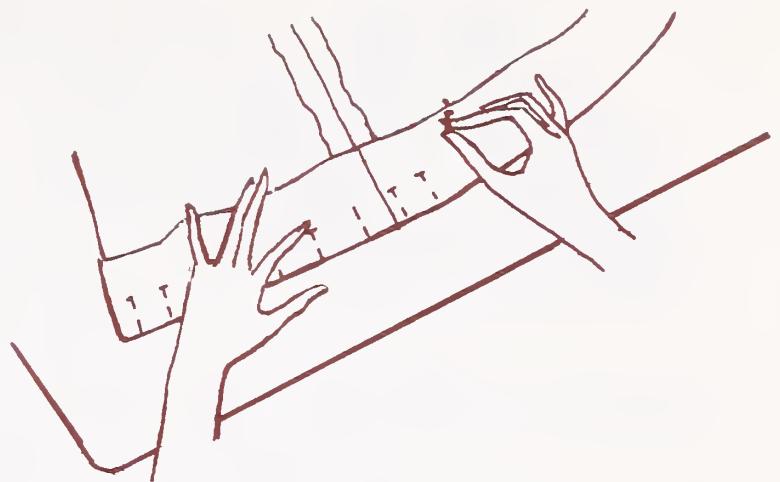
3. Have the owner put on the dress or skirt. Pin up the hem to find the place it looks best. Mark a stick at this height from the floor. Take out all the pins.



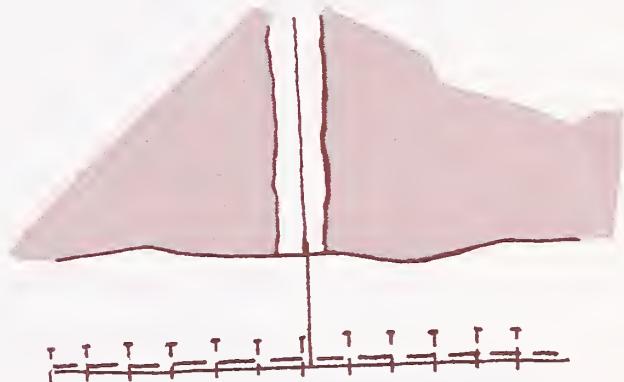
4. Ask the person to stand still. Move around her as you mark the new length with pins.



5. Take the dress off. Put it on a table. Fold the dress up at the marks you made. Pin the fold. Pin at the seams first, then in between the seams.



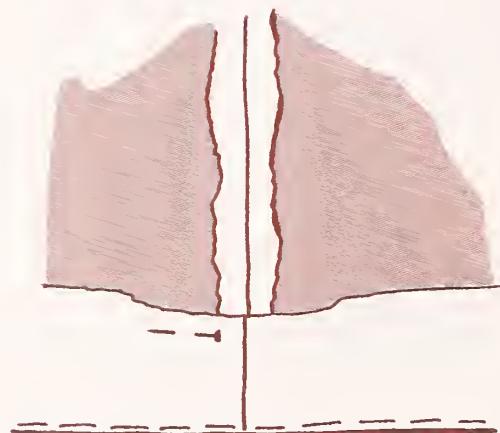
6. Use long stitches to hold the hem in place. Take out the pins.



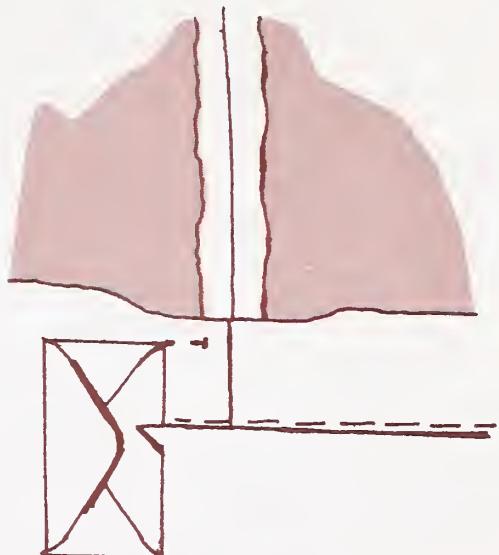
7. Pin the top of the hem to the dress to hold it in place. Put the dress on to see if the length is right. See that it is even all around.



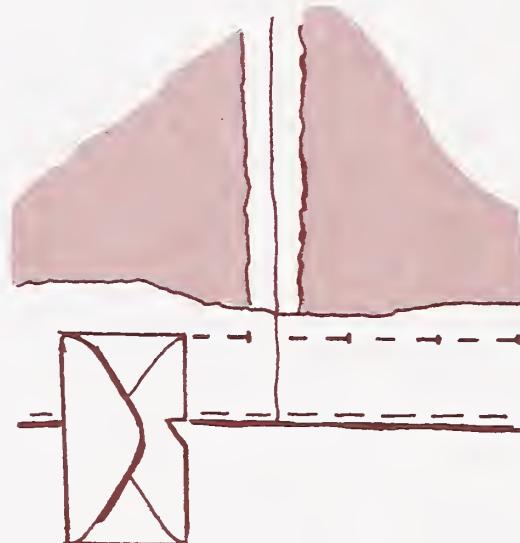
8. If the hem looks right, take the dress off and put it on the table. Find the narrowest place from the fold of the hem to the raw edge. Mark it with a pin. This is the widest you can have your hem. But you can make it narrower. Two inches is good.



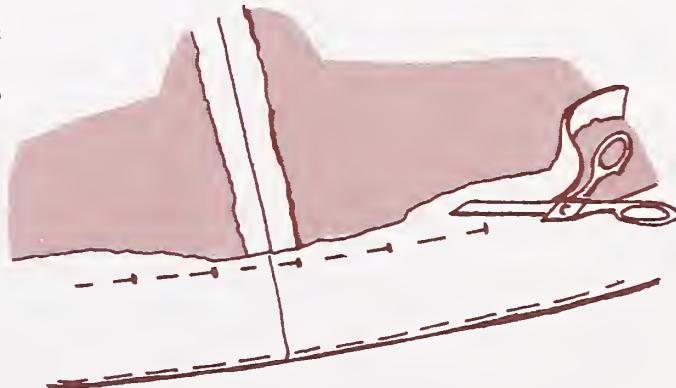
9. Make a marker the size you want your hem. An old envelope is good.



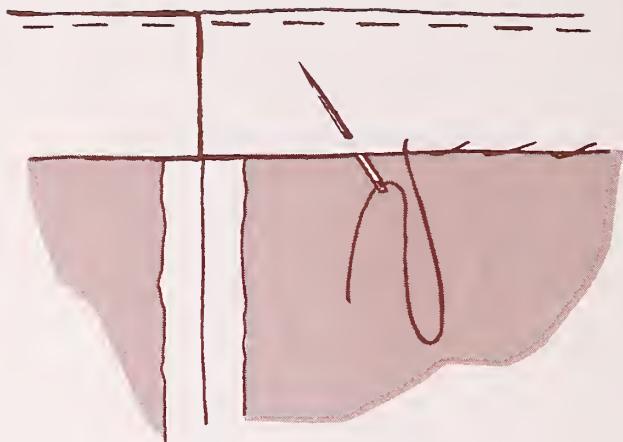
10. Use the marker to pin an even line all the way around.



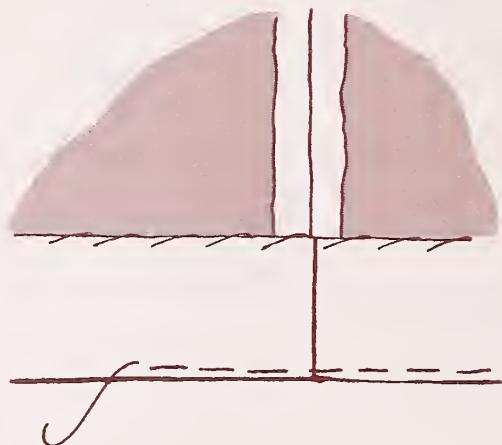
11. Cut the edge even along the pin marking. Pull the pins out as you get to them.



12. Turn the edge under about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch and sew the fold to the dress.



13. Take out the long basting stitches at the fold of the hem.



14. Press the hem.

